

January 31, 1961

Dear Frank:

Since Ed wrote you on November 29, 1960 relative to a mock-up prototype web processor, we have been doing a considerable amount of experimental work with the hope that a satisfactory solution could be accrued.

I regret to say that it is now our recommendation that the web process not be considered for application in your test program. There are several reasons for our recommendation. We do not feel that we could offer you a reliable technique by March 1, 1961. As you are probably aware, our present production equipment and design efforts are for 70mm widths. Hand processing of individual frames of wider material has been accomplished, however, we do not have satisfactory automated or semi-automated devices which will handle the 150 foot or longer lengths of film you have specified.

We are not in a position to supply pre-soaked or activated web in widths other than 70mm. This would mean that you would have to have a soaking device in your area. The soaking device would be in addition to the washer and dryer necessary for the web processed negative to eliminate chemical contamination and yield processing of archival quality.

The web process is a monobath type of processing with the action going to completion. There is no opportunity to limit or force development nor can modified development chemistry be used.

We, ourselves, intend to use an Air Force Processor Model EH-6A [redacted] and also at our facilities for test films. Control will be established for use in this machine so that it will be representative of final mission film processing chemistry. It should be pointed out that it is not our intent to process active mission film or tests of extended coverage in the EH-6A machines.

We recommend that you requisition an EH-6A machine for your test program. This would be required, in any event, for the washing and drying mentioned above. We will be pleased to aid you in setting the machine up and running control tests for comparison with our own units. In event modified chemistry becomes applicable, we will keep you informed of the changes.

We will continue to work on a web unit for laboratory use. In event this device is applicable prior to the end of the test program, we will naturally see that you are made aware of availability. In event it

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becomes advantageous for you to have single test frames processed by the web process, we will be pleased to attempt hand processing techniques on your film which, although we could not guarantee, we feel would be mutually satisfactory.

If you would care to see an EH-6A machine or discuss the overall test program, we would be pleased to have you drop in at our facilities.



B. L. E.

BLE:LB  
cc: E. L. G.  
C. F. H.  
L. E. W.

| TRANSMITTAL SLIP  |          | DATE                     |
|---|----------|--------------------------|
| TO: <i>Chief Sec Br.</i>  |          |                          |
| ROOM NO.  | BUILDING |                          |
| REMARKS:<br><i>John -</i><br><i>As you can see</i><br><i>by the attached the</i><br><i>Web process for Of</i><br><i>May be out the window</i><br><i>at least at the start</i><br><i>of the process.</i><br><i>I think we should</i> |          |                          |
| FROM  |          |                          |
| ROOM NO.<br><i>534 1</i>  | BUILDING | EXTENSION<br><i>8813</i> |

FORM NO. 241

1 FEB 55  
REPLACES FORM 36-8  
WHICH MAY BE USED.

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